

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference Cas 2367PCT/VR		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2005/003556	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.04.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 14.04.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G04B3/06			
Applicant MECO SA GRENCHE			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.																									
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.																									
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>3</u> sheets, as follows: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) <div style="margin-left: 20px;">, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</div></div>																									
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 10%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td style="width: 20%;">Box No. I</td><td>Basis of the report</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. II</td><td>Priority</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. III</td><td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. IV</td><td>Lack of unity of invention</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. V</td><td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VI</td><td>Certain documents cited</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VII</td><td>Certain defects in the international application</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VIII</td><td>Certain observations on the international application</td></tr></table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-11 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-16 _____ received by this Authority on 09.02.2006 with
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on telefax
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) -- see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-16

YES

Claims

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims 1-16

YES

Claims

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims 1-16

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 2 716 875;

D2: US 2 563 112.

Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (the references between parentheses apply to said document):

- a crown (column 2, lines 67-71) for a timepiece comprising a recess (figure 5) that has an axis X1 and inside which there is, in particular, at least a first resiliently deformable element (figure 5, 27) rotatably engageable, about said axis X1 and in at least a first direction of rotation, with a rigid element (figure 5, 31), wherein the rotary torque transmitted by one of said elements to the other is lower than a predetermined value beyond which said first deformable element is capable of deforming so that the rotatable engagement thereof with said rigid element can be disconnected (column 2, lines 48-57).

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It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 differs from this known crown in that:

- an hour wheel comprising winding stem attachment means in the area of a first end thereof is arranged inside said recess that has an axis X1;
- said resiliently deformable element is rigidly connected to said hour wheel, irrespective of the rotary torque value, while said rigid element is stationary relative to said crown; and
- said deformable element rotatably engages the inside edge of the ring-shaped rigid element.

The subject matter of claim 1 is, therefore, novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem that the present invention is intended to solve can therefore be considered to be that of producing a crown in which the disconnection mechanism is easy to assemble, the deformable element is not prestressed and no special structure is required for the end of the winding stem.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), for the following reasons:

Even though a resilient element that is engageable with the edge of a rigid element is known from document D2 with respect to a disconnection mechanism located inside a watch case, said document does not teach or suggest

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that such a mechanism could be used inside a winding crown to solve the stated problem. As a result, the combination of features in claim 1 is not known from, or suggested by, the prior art.

Claims 2-16 are dependent on claim 1 and, as such, therefore also fulfil the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.